

# CITY OF ST. JOSEPH HEALTH DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2018



# *Year in Review*

Hello, and welcome to the City of St. Joseph Health Department 2018 Annual Report! This report offers an overview of the services and accomplishments the health department achieved during the past calendar year. We continue to serve our area, assuring public safety throughout the entire community by working towards the highest standard of public health for our citizens.

In 2018, the health department followed up on initiatives begun when the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) selected St. Joseph as one of nine locations to host an Opioid Summit in November of 2017. The event was an overwhelming success and gave us the opportunity to build on the relevance of the summit by creating an Opioid Task-Force. Many organizations in our community have joined together to improve the infrastructure of addiction and over-dose response and service provision; prevention programs and public education; and building coping and resiliency skills in our youth.

Animal Control and Rescue added programming and updated codes to better serve our four-legged friends. Clinic Services continued work in the community, partnering with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to increase education on the hazards of lead and how to minimize risk of exposure, just one of many hats worn by Clinic staff.

Staff continue to plan and prepare for all-hazards by strategically evaluating and updating an evolving public health emergency response plan. The Women, Infants and Children programs' Breast-Feeding Peer Counselors continued to support mothers and babies and experienced another successful year, adding more breastfeeding friendly worksites to the ever-growing list. Environmental Services diligently maintained all programs and services under their purview, responding to new and unusual circumstances as needed, and providing around-the-clock response to any food, drug or cosmetic related disasters.

The health department continues to closely monitor the pulse of the community to ensure our programming addresses the ever changing needs of our citizens. Within the pages of this report you will find tremendous evidence of the work the health department does in a variety of arenas to protect the health of our citizens as well as to educate and promote healthy choices. Thank you to our partners and to you for all you do to live healthy!

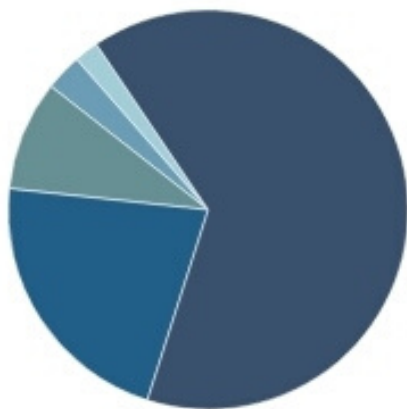
Sincerely,

Debra Bradley, Director

# *2018*

# Financial Health 2018

## REVENUE SOURCES



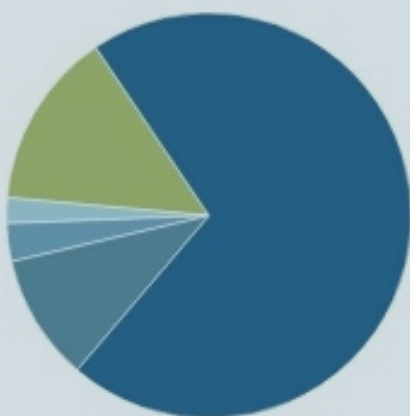
65%	TAXES
22%	GRANTS & CONTRACTS
9%	FEES, LICENSES, PERMITS
3%	MEDICAL FEES
2%	MISCELLANEOUS

A significant portion of the operating budget for the health department is dependent on the acquisition of grants and contracts. Many of our grants are established at the federal level and pass through the state before reaching local health departments.

The City of St Joseph Health Department receives funding from these sources:

*Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*  
*Maternal Child Health Services*  
*Child Care Health Consultation*  
*U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)*  
*Women, Infants, Children (WIC)*  
*Summer Food Service Program for Children*  
*Department of Health and Senior Services/ Health Resources and Services Administration HIV Care Formula Grants HIV Case Management*  
*Department of Health and Senior Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*  
*HIV Prevention Activities*  
*Lead Poisoning Prevention Health Education Program*  
*Opioid Crisis Response Program*  
*Public Health Emergency Preparedness*  
*National Association of County and City Health Officials*

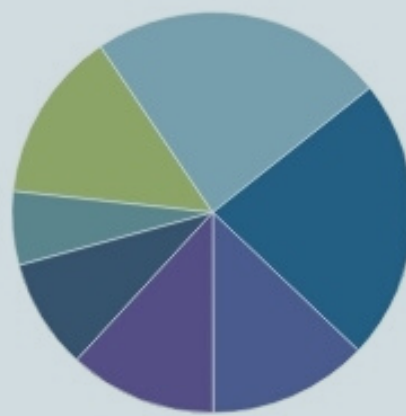
## EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY



70%	PERSONNEL
10%	OUTSIDE SERVICES
3%	MATERIALS & SUPPLIES
2%	CAPITOL OUTLAY
14%	SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD

\*SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD IS NOT A DIVISION OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER THESE FUNDS REPRESENT A PORTION OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET

## EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION



24%	ADMINISTRATION
23%	ANIMAL CONTROL & RESCUE
13%	CLINIC
12%	WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN
9%	COMMUNITY HEALTH
6%	ENVIRONMENTAL
14%	SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD

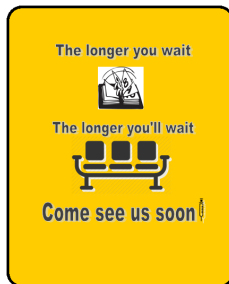
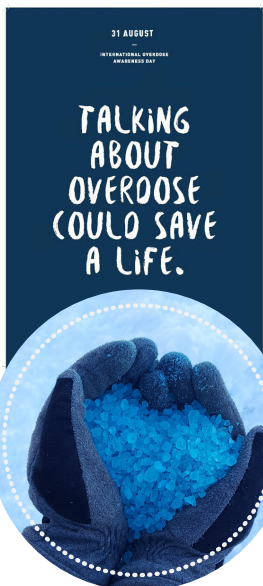
# Administration

Health Administration is located on the second floor at Patee Market Health Center, and it is where the core operations of the department take place. The staff consists of the Director, Assistant Director, Executive Secretary, Administrative Specialist and Public Information Officer, four Administrative Technicians, a Building Maintenance Technician and a Custodian whose time is divided between Patee Market and Animal Control & Rescue.

Certified Missouri Vital Records (birth and death records), are a staple of the health department. 12,137 copies were issued to qualified applicants in 2018. Administration is also the public information center for the department. We issued 31 press releases in 2018 and were featured in more than 70 local news stories. Topics of press releases included pet adoption specials, CPR classes, flu clinics, open burning, and grants and contracts. Our Animal Control and Rescue division continued to dominate our public information sharing as the facility is chronically over-crowded, and also due to an ordinance was incorporated that protects animals from being stranded on a lead-line or tether.



Social media outreach included notices about pet adoption specials, lead poison prevention, heat stroke or cold-weather conditions, stress management, suicide awareness and prevention, food safety, distracted driving, safe sleep and SIDS Awareness, CPR and other health education classes, our free flu clinic, HIV and STI testing, WIC division and breastfeeding peer counselor updates, mental health, St. Joe Fit updates, a course for parents of teen drivers, immunization clinics, smoking and vaping dangers, various national "awareness" campaigns and more! Our marketing was done through radio, social marketing such as Facebook boosts, newspaper advertising, and movie screen previews. 205 Facebook posts had a total user reach of over 96,000.





# Environmental

Environmental Services is located inside Patee Market Health Center, and is comprised of three Environmental Public Health Specialists (EPHS), with oversight provided by the Assistant Health Director.

The Environmental Public Health Specialists (EPHS) provide a multitude of services that work toward the common goal of ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of the citizens of St. Joseph. In 2018 the three Environmental Public Health Specialists completed over 2,000 inspections, combined. They ranged from routine, new facility, complaint-driven, follow-ups, temporary event, educational, and other types of inspections. The EPHS's inspect food, lodging, childcare and tattooing establishments, public and semi-private pools and spas, on-site wastewater treatment systems, provide 24/7 disaster response involving food and drug products, follow-up on indoor air quality concerns and smoking ordinance complaints, and license tattooing artists among other environmental concerns. The City of St. Joseph Health Department also has a contractual agreement to provide specific environmental services to Holt County, MO.

Basic and Advanced Food Handler Courses are taught monthly, with the goal of giving attendees a more solid foundation in safe food handling techniques. The courses were completed by 89 students in 2018, expanding food safety practices and regulatory compliance throughout the community.

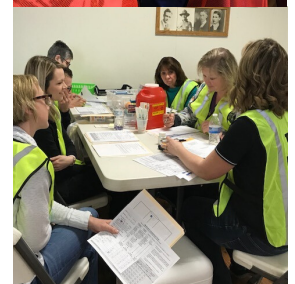
The Bureau of Childcare of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) contracts with Environmental Services to inspect local childcare facilities. There are approximately 55 licensed childcare facilities to inspect throughout St. Joseph and Buchanan County. The centers are inspected by the health department upon request from DHSS; 46 were completed in 2018.

TEMPORARY EVENTS WORKED (FOOD)	40		CALLS RECEIVED/MISC INFO (NON-FOOD)	332
SUMMER FOOD SITES INSPECTED	9		TATTOO ARTIST'S CARDS ISSUED	16
FOOD ESTABLISHMENT RELATED CALLS	532		TEMPORARY TATTOO ARTIST INSPECTIONS	8
FOOD COMPLAINT INSPECTIONS	86		INDOOR AIR QUALITY/SMOKING COMPLAINTS	2
TRUCK WRECKS & FIRE RESPONSES	63		HOLT COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HOURS	167

## Emergency Response Planning

The City of St. Joseph Health Department contracts with an emergency response planner who is a Certified Healthcare Emergency Professional (CHEP). The CHEP collaborates with other agencies to help our community prepare for a public health emergency. Primary components of preparedness include: planning for and recovering from emergencies; coordinating an effective response; ensuring people have information to take action; distributing medicines and supplies; expanding medical services to handle large events; and, investigating and identifying health threats.

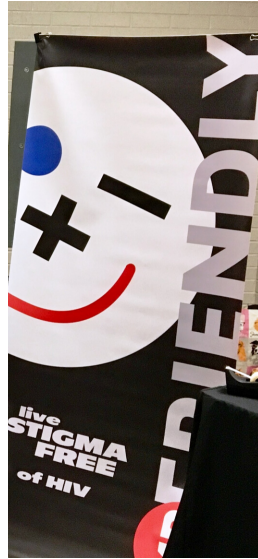
In 2018, health department staff participated in a full-scale Point of Dispensing Exercise organized by our CHEP, held in Caldwell County. Staff gained valuable public health response experience in a unique opportunity to work cooperatively with other agencies toward a common objective. Our CHEP also organized a regional Public Emergency Response Social Media Training. The training provided insight into multiple social media formats, posting for maximum impact and reach, photography and video editing, and creating crisis messaging with a focus on facts.



# Community Health

The Community Health division consists of a supervisor who is a Case Manager, a Care Coordinator, a Health Educator, and a Community Health Nurse.

The Case Manager and Care Coordinator serve persons living with HIV across 15 counties in northwest Missouri. The Community Health Nurse tests and treats some sexually transmitted infections (STI's). The Health Educator coordinates outreach in St. Joseph and Buchanan County; also, through a grant with the state of Missouri, HIV/STI health education is provided to the northwest MO. Community Health collaborates with the City of St. Joseph Transportation Department by providing initial certification for individuals living with a disability. The process certifies conditions and allows the disabled to use RIDE at a reduced fare.



OFFICE VISITS FOR STI TESTING	434
HIV TESTS ADMINISTERED (SEROLOGY)	278
RAPID HIV TESTS ADMINISTERED IN OUTREACH	239
RAPID HEPATITIS C TESTS ADMINISTERED	147
HEPATITIS VACCINE ADMINISTERED	7
NEWLY DIAGNOSED HIV CLIENTS	4
INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY CM	81
INDIVIDUALS TRANSFERRING INTO CM	18
CLIENT CONTACTS	829



HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH	60
PEOPLE ATTENDING EVENTS	11,979
CONDOM DISTRIBUTION SITES	22
MRC TRAINING/TRAVEL/MARKETING	27
TRANSIT APPLICATIONS	355
COALITION BUILDING/COMMUNITY MTGS	62
COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUED SURVEYS	15
EDUCATION/CLASSES	10
ATTENDED CLASSES	189

## OPIOID TASK-FORCE

The Buchanan County Opioid Task-Force was started in April 2018 as a result of the regional Opioid Summit held in the fall of 2017. The Task-force has generated a tremendous amount of momentum in the community towards addressing the national opioid epidemic on a local level. The task-force boasts over 50 members representing 25 organizations and meets monthly. The task-force hosted the city's first annual International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31st on the steps of City Hall overlooking Civic Center Park in remembrance of lives lost to overdose. The City of St. Joseph Health Department was awarded an Opioid Crisis Response Grant to further efforts to prevent overdose deaths in our community in November of 2017, which will allow the expansion of prevention and public education activities.



### *HIV/AIDS/STI Testing, Counseling and Education*

HIV testing and counseling services were offered onsite and at multiple outreach events including St. Joe Pride, Missouri Western State University, Northwest Missouri State University, St. Joseph Open Door Food Kitchen, Project Homeless Connect, and at local shelters and treatment facilities. The Centers for Disease Control recommends everyone born between 1945–1965 be tested for Hepatitis C due to less rigorous medical practices and high infection rates in the past. The health department offers Hepatitis C, HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis screening, testing, and select treatment.

### *HIV Case Management*

HIV Case Managers served a monthly average of 65 individuals living with HIV in 15 Northwest Missouri counties. By June 30, 2018, 93% of case managed clients achieved a viral load suppression rate, indicating that they no longer experience debilitating symptoms and cannot pass the virus on to anyone else through sexual contact. Women who are HIV+ can pass the virus on to their baby when pregnant without appropriate medical intervention. In our region, no infants born to HIV+ women have been born infected with HIV. Case managers work closely with officials at other agencies to ensure clients receive the health insurance they are entitled to. As of 12/15/18, 100% of client's who had no access to government or employer-based health benefits were enrolled for 2019 Market Place Insurance (ACA).



### *Mental Health First Aid*

In 2018, three Mental Health First Aid classes were provided to Public Safety students at the Law Enforcement Academy at Missouri Western State University. Three Youth Mental Health First Aid classes were provided at Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), Central High School, and MidCity Excellence. The St. Joseph Medical Reserve Corps funding supports building resilience in adults and youth by strengthening the mental health response of our community.



The National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) accepted the submission of an abstract from **Kelly Kibirige**, "Why Mental Health First Aid Makes Sense for Preparedness, Response and Recovery", for the 2019 National Preparedness Summit in St. Louis, Missouri on March 26-29, 2019. Kelly is the supervisor of the Community Health Services division of the health department and also coordinates the activities of the Northwest Missouri Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). Through the MRC, Kelly has been teaching Mental Health First Aid since 2014. She co-trained the St. Joseph Police Department and continues to train at the Law Enforcement Academy. She co-trained teachers and staff at Central High School in the 2017-18 school year. Kelly will present with Racheal Taube who is the Project Director for Mental Health First Aid at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health through the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

### *St. Joe Fit*

Back by popular demand, St. Joe FIT encourages people of all ages and physical abilities to get up, get out, and get fit! The health department partnered with the City of St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department with additional support from the Y.M.C.A., St. Joseph Plasma Biological, and the Senior Center Foundation. With over 1,000 registered participants, St. Joe Fit had another record setting year in 2018. The free program met at a different location on the urban trail system for 16 weeks from April through July. St. Joe FIT provided a map and distance calculations so participants could track their progress. Aqua Zumba, a water aerobics class, was another free alternative of the program. St. Joe FIT helps participants live a more active lifestyle, connect with friends who are committed to making healthy choices, mix up their fitness routine, and qualify for prizes and incentives just for participating in the program!



### *Kids Tour of St. Joe*

Kids Tour of St. Joe, in its 9th year, was once again a great success. Events were held on June 23rd at Krug Park and July 21st at Hyde Park. Kids aged 3-14 enjoyed bike rides along the trails of the parks. Each participant received a medal, free t-shirt, and lunch provided by Chick-fil-A restaurant. In addition to the "races", kids learned safe bicycling practices at a safety rodeo.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS SURVEY

Our Maternal Child Health (MCH) program kicked off 2018 with a focused local assessment of quantitative and qualitative data to determine maternal child health priorities for Buchanan County. A community health needs survey was distributed to our partners in fields related to MCH and to the public in order to gather diverse input perspectives. Multiple sources of data and surveys were reviewed. These findings were then compared to the opinions of the community to determine which health issues are the most prevalent, that members of the community would be most supportive of, and those we can address with available or attainable resources. From this process, the MCH priority health issues were identified.

As of result of the focused local assessment, the City of St. Joseph Health Department selected to "Reduce intentional and unintentional injuries among children and adolescents – Child Safety /Injury" as our Maternal Child Health Priority Health Issue (PHI) with the intent to work on drug prevention measures with community partners.

# Clinic

Clinic staff consists of six Community Health Nurses, one of whom serves as supervisor. Each nurse has a specific role in the clinic division, and are all cross-trained for continuity of service. The position of Clinic Coordinator was added, streamlining clinic operations. The position was filled from within existing staff.



		IMMUNIZATIONS ADMINISTERED	3,749	MONTHLY AVE KIDS/LEAD CASE MANAGEMENT	121
		FLU IMMUNIZATIONS	950	NEW EBLL 10+ CASES	22
		CHILDREN IMMUNIZED	1,193	NEW EBLL 5+ CASES	108
		CHILDREN MEDICAID/UN-/UNDER INSURED	1,096	CD-1 CASE REPORTS RECEIVED	308
		CHILDREN INSURED	97	NEW ACTIVE TB CASES	6
		ADULTS IMMUNIZED	928	ACTIVE TB CASE HOME VISITS	344
		ADULTS UN-/UNDER INSURED	708	PREGNANCY TESTS	218
		ADULTS INSURED	220	TEMPORARY MEDICAID ENROLLMENTS	316
CPR CLASSES	30	CHILDCARE PROVIDER TRAININGS	11	MONTHLY AVE WOMEN/PREG CASE MANAGEMENT	107
CPR ATTENDEES	113				
GENERAL CONSULT/REFERRAL	170				

## Prenatal Case Management

Our prenatal case manager works closely with MOSAIC Life Care Women's Health to set prenatal care appointments for our mutual clients. In 2018, the program gave 218 pregnancy tests and on average served 107 women in prenatal case management each month. The prenatal case management nurse helped 316 women enroll in Temporary Medicaid, giving pregnant women access to important prenatal care.



## CPR/AED/First Aid Classes

The clinic offers American Heart Association Heartsaver® CPR/AED and Heartsaver® First Aid classes monthly at the department. Classes are also available by request at off-site locations. Classes held on the third Wednesday of the month are open to the public. In 2018, 30 class sessions trained 113 people to become certified.

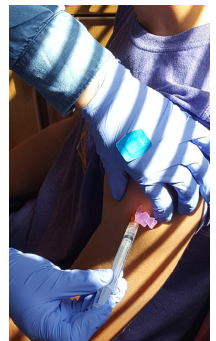
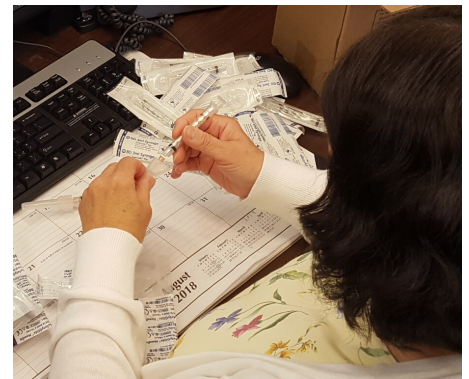
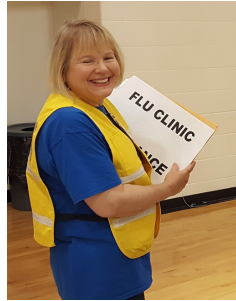
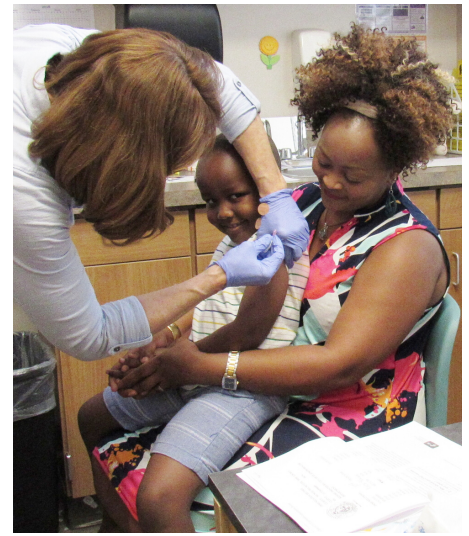


## Lead Poisoning Prevention Health Education & Case Management

The Lead Case Manager and Lead Health Educator partnered to provide the most current guidance regarding screening, testing and referrals. At 18 health fairs and community outreach programs, lead poisoning prevention education was shared with almost 2,200 people. The department also partnered with community agencies, child care centers, physician offices, the area realtors association, schools and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA announced plans to promote lead awareness and offer free classes to assist skilled laborers and do-it-yourselfers to acquire required training and certification.



There is no useful purpose or safe level of lead in a child's bloodstream. Elevated blood lead levels (EBLL's) can only be verified by testing. Lead exposure often occurs with no easily identifiable symptoms. Our clinic provides case management to children with EBLL's. The program has seen a dramatic increase in the lead poisoning case management load due to a shift in the threshold amount of lead tolerated in a child's system before referred for service. This has given the clinic the opportunity to provide earlier intervention to families as they help children recover from lead poisoning. The number of children in case management in 2018 averaged 121 per month.



## *Health Department Staff prepare for Annual Flu Clinic, October 10, 2018*

### *Immunizations*

The month of August is always a busy time for the City of St. Joseph Health Department. Due to Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requirements, local public health departments are often called upon to provide service to students returning to school. In addition to providing certified copies of Missouri birth records, health department staff are highly skilled at administering immunizations to children. Students entering kindergarten, 8th & 12th grade and college needed vaccine boosters before school started. This year, the clinic saw 476 children and 35 adults in August, gave 1,036 immunizations and registered those shot records into Missouri's immunization data base to give other providers across Missouri access to each patients vaccine history.

At our Annual Flu Clinic we gave 260 flu doses; 950 flu vaccines were given through December including some given at outreach events sponsored by Bi-National Health Fair, Open Door Food Kitchen, Haven House, Juda House and Second Harvest.

### *Monitoring Communicable Disease*

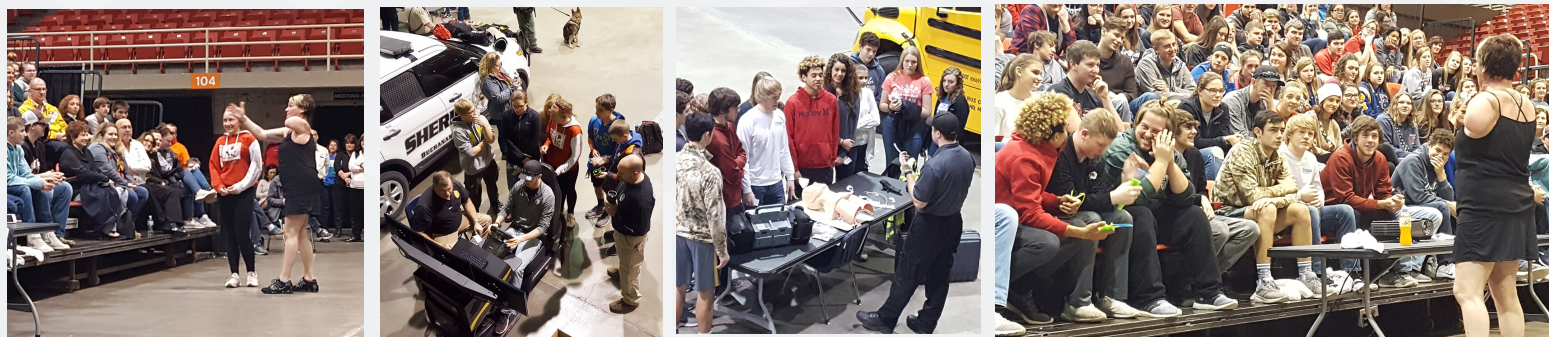
Clinic nurses monitor and provide follow-up on reports of communicable disease, including tuberculosis (TB). 477 Tuberculin skin test screenings were administered by the clinic, typically for employment purposes. The clinic responded to 308 communicable disease reports with investigation and follow-up. Health department nurses are a valued resource and referral source for the prevention, control and containment of communicable diseases for health care professionals and the community. Clinic nurses were called upon to provide Tuberculosis information and work in collaboration with physician offices and patients to ensure medication compliance. To protect the client and the public, 351 in-home visits with TB clients were completed to ensure medication compliance in 2018, an increase of 370% over 2017 home visits.

*Clinic and support staff prepare for Back to School*

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (MCH) INITIATIVE

The City of St. Joseph Health Department MCH contract has been focused on injury prevention for several years. Those efforts included advocating for certification of those who serve alcohol; advocating for stronger, more consistent implementation of impact or diversion sentencing for traffic offenders to the dangers of impaired, aggressive or distracted driving; working with parent groups, youth organizations, child care facilities and the public to promote proper use of child passenger safety seats; "It Only Takes One" teen driver education; "First Impact" parent education, and youth and adult bicycle safety. Through the grant, every elementary school student in Buchanan County schools participating in Red Ribbon Week activities was provided a new Red Ribbon Week pencil and schools received Red Ribbon Week banners and posters; schools were supplied outdoor signs for safe driving campaigns; helmets were supplied for bicycle safety classes; supported high school Drug Free Super STARs program; and joined other partners to present "Docudrama" outreach events to regionally located high schools. In December in partnership with Youth Alliance, an Arrive Alive event was held at the Civic Arena. Almost 300 students attended the hands on demonstrations and listened to the speaker share her story of alcohol abuse, recovery and redemption.

*Arrive Alive Event - Civic Arena - December 12, 2018*



*High School Docudramas - Area High Schools - Spring and Fall 2018*



*Red Ribbon Week - Area Middle and Elementary Schools - October 2018*



# Women Infants and Children

The Women, Infants and Children, or WIC, division of the City of St. Joseph Health Department has a staff of ten that served 20,587 participants in 2018. WIC staff consists of four Nutritionists, three Clerks, and three Breastfeeding Peer Counselors.



Families receiving WIC services learn about nutrition and health, and food packages are tailored to the specific health needs of each participant. Checks (redeemable vouchers) are issued and used to purchase healthy foods approved by federal WIC guidelines. In 2018, \$2,225,344 was issued in checks for the purpose of purchasing healthy foods from local grocery stores. Over the past five years, the value of checks issued by WIC to be spent in our community was over 11.5 million dollars.

WIC participants may qualify as adults if they are pregnant, post-partum or breastfeeding. A mother may receive benefits until her baby is one year old if she is breastfeeding. Children can participate until age five. WIC teaches how nutrition impacts overall health in personal counseling, WIChealth.org and breastfeeding classes. WIC also makes referrals for medical and community services.

WIC was responsible for maintaining the qualifications for the City of St. Joseph Health Department's status as a Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite. In addition, WIC offered technical support and encouraged area businesses to apply for Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite awards. St. Joseph now has 17 Breastfeeding Friendly Worksites and two Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Centers.

## WIC CLIENTS SERVED - MONTHLY AVERAGE:



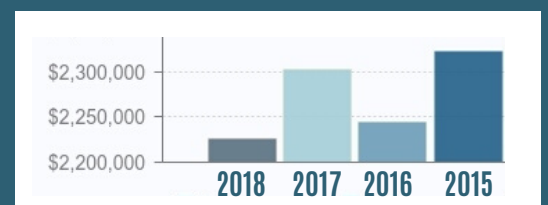
WOMEN - PREGNANT	192
WOMEN - FULLY BREASTFEEDING	51
WOMEN - PARTIALLY BREASTFEEDING	50
WOMEN - POSTPARTUM NON-BF	190
INFANTS - FULLY BREASTFEEDING	58
INFANTS - PARTIALLY BREASTFEEDING	44
INFANTS - FULLY FORMULA FED	448
CHILDREN SERVED	682

## BREASTFEEDING PEER COUNSELOR PROGRAM:

CERTIFICATION OF NEW CLIENTS	82	NEW ENROLLMENTS	26
WALK-IN CLIENTS SERVED	64	INDIVIDUALS SERVED	233
SPANISH SPEAKING CLIENTS	238	OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	8
		CLASS ATTENDANCE	42

## WIC CHECKS ISSUED 2015-2018

VALUED AT \$9,094,711  
INTO OUR LOCAL ECONOMY



2018 VALUE OF CHECKS ISSUED	\$2,225,344
AVE # OF CHECKS ISSUED MONTHLY	7,523

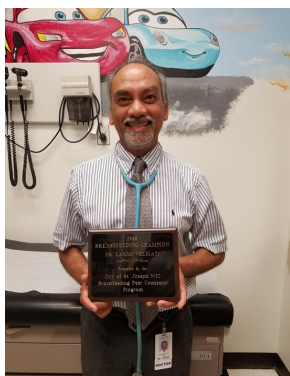


*Outreach activities organized by the WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselors*

WIC employs Breast Feeding Peer Counselors (BFPC's) to provide support to WIC mothers who choose breastfeeding. They manage and organize breastfeeding education and outreach which includes speaking at area schools, Parents as Teachers, Health Advisory Council, and other community programs. They help manage a peer support group with Mosaic Life Care. The peer counselors are also responsible for coordinating all events related to World Breastfeeding Week/Month in August.

Breastfeeding classes are taught nine times weekly, covering benefits, support team and infant care, pumping and storage, and baby basics. Class is taught in Spanish on Wednesday. BFPC's are in the office daily and available by phone 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Breastfeeding Coordinator and BFPC's serve on a St. Joseph Breastfeeding Task Force that works to promote breastfeeding in our community.

August is World Breastfeeding Month. St. Joseph WIC celebrated our expecting and breastfeeding moms with activities to show St. Joseph supports breastfeeding mothers and to help normalize breastfeeding within our community. The World Breastfeeding Week theme was "Sustaining Breastfeeding Together". WIC recognized three Breastfeeding Champions, selected by our community of moms. Our 2018 recipients were Dr. Brooke Seevers, Dr. Sheena Drake, and Dr. Laxmi Veligati all physicians at Mosaic Life Care.

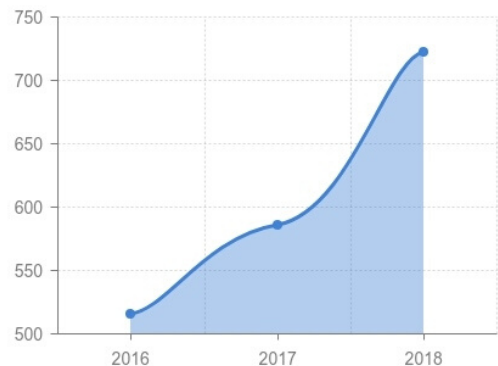


*Award Winners Dr. Veligati, Dr. Drake (plaque), and Dr. Seevers*

# Animal Control & Rescue

Animal Control & Rescue staff includes the Manager, an Office Coordinator, a Humane Educator, a Senior Animal Control Officer, three Animal Care Specialists, and six Animal Control Officers. AC&R works to prevent the spread of diseases communicable from animals to humans (zoonotic diseases) and to ensure proper care and humane handling of animals in the community through education, outreach, hands-on activities and code enforcement.

OFF-LEASH DOG PARK MEMBERSHIPS BY YEAR

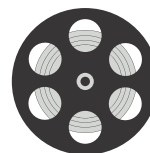


In 2015 the Corby Off-Leash Dog Park was opened in a grassy area along Northeast Parkway near Corby Pond. To enter the park, dogs must own a membership tag, which is \$5 and available at multiple locations. Membership to the park has continued to grow as dogs enjoy the open space and exercise and skills areas.

Animal Control and Rescue division proudly introduced Digs for Dogs mid-year, a program developed to provide shelter for dogs while they are outside in their yards. Made possible by a grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA), Digs for Dogs provides better shelter and living environments for outdoor pets by assisting pet owners with a dog house and other supplies.

The City of St. Joseph Health Department Animal Control and Rescue division proposed an ordinance to protect dogs from prolonged tethering, "Unlawful Restraint of a Dog". It was deemed necessary by Animal Control and Rescue officers' field observations and statements made by concerned citizens. Public feedback on the ordinance language was sought prior to it being presented to the members of the City Council. The ordinance passed and went into effect in October.

The red carpet was rolled out for those attending Howlapalooza 2018 and everyone had fun with the Hollywood and celebrity themed "Howly"wood day. This annual event was inspired by the grand opening of Corby Dog park. Games, contests, prizes and even three on-site shelter adoptions were all part of the festivities. Events such as this are often subsidized by local sponsors and we were lucky to have the support of HyVee, Pampered Pooch and Fantastic Fido's as well as the fur-ever support of the St. Joseph Friends of the Animal Shelter.



### *A Second Chance for Bessie*

In June 2018, AC&R dispatch received a call regarding a stray dog at a construction site. The crew had offered her scraps, but no one could get very close. Officer Starks responded to the call and coaxed the scared, sweet Pitbull to her and carried her to the truck. She named the dog Bessie. It was obvious she was malnourished, and her skin was severely infected resulting in scabs and hair loss. The veterinarian treated her non-contagious infection. Bessie was deemed a great candidate for the Puppies for Parole program. She went to WRDCC on June 21st and amazed everyone with her capacity for love and affection. When she entered the program, she would not walk on a leash and was easily spooked, but she quickly bonded with her handler who went to work with her right away. She learned commands and was house and crate trained. She began walking on a leash and gained confidence daily. Bessie was thriving with her human and furry friends! She passed her Canine Good Citizen test in August and found a loving forever home in early September. Regular updates from her family attest to how wonderful Bessie is doing. She is another amazing example of second chances and the dedication of AC&R staff and community partners.



*Before and after photos of Bessie don't even look like the same animal.*



FIELD ACTIVITY - COMPLAINT CALLS	7,138	DOG INTAKE	1,566
FIELD ACTIVITY - SUMMONS ISSUED	1,077	DOGS REDEEMED	406
PUPPIES FOR PAROLE GRADS	68	DOGS ADOPTED	858
PUPPIES FOR PAROLE ADOPTED	69	DOGS EUTHANIZED/DIED	213
SPAY/NEUTER ASSIST (ANIMAL KIND)	148	CAT INTAKE	1,662
GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMS	5	CATS REDEEMED	25
DOG PARK MEMBERSHIPS	722	CATS ADOPTED	785
MEDIA INTERVIEWS	123	CATS EUTHANIZED/DIED	802

Deck the Howls was a nationwide promotion supported by the Humane Society of Missouri. Children visited the shelter to read books to the animals and played at activity stations, including decorating cookies and ornaments. Rolling Hills Library donated Christmas books to the children who participated. Space was limited and 20 lucky children were signed up quickly, putting the event at capacity within a few days of its announcement. The St. Joseph Friends of the Animal Shelter volunteers assisted staff to make the event a success.



# Awards & Accolades

**Ellen Starks** received the John Rhodes award from the Missouri Animal Control Association in September. This prestigious award is presented to the animal care and control/welfare professional who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty and sets the example for his or her peers. Those who are awarded the John Rhodes Award exemplify the animal care and control profession through years of dedicated, professional service to their community and the profession; or have made great changes which impact and better our profession state-wide or beyond. Nominees for the John Rhodes Award must be Missouri Animal Control Association members in good standing.



**Holly Bowie**, Animal Control and Rescue Manager, was accepted into the Maddie's Fostering 4 Rock Stars Apprenticeship at Cat Adoption Team. Through this program, Holly will learn how to utilize training, protocols, foster mentors, and pre-adoption to increase the lifesaving capacity of young kittens. Holly will learn how to build and run a comprehensive kitten foster program from intake to adoption. Holly received a \$1,500 stipend to use towards her travel to Oregon for the training.



**Theresa Pinson**, Senior Animal Care Specialist, received an award from Maddie's Robust Cat and Dog Foster Program Apprenticeship to attend training in North Carolina. At Maddie's Robust Cat and Dog Foster Program Apprenticeship participants learn how to start and run a foster program for cats and dogs in their own communities. Participants leave with the tools and knowledge to build a community of foster families larger than the shelter. Theresa received \$1,500 towards travel expenses.



# Boards & Committees

Staff serve on various boards such as, but not limited to the United Way, including Success by Six, Unmet Needs, Allocations, Housing Stability Taskforce and Leadership St. Joseph. Other groups include Buchanan County Community Organizations Active in Disaster, Crisis Intervention Team Council of Northwest Missouri, Drug Free Community Coalition, Local Emergency Planning Committee, KCMO Branch of International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP), IAAP Influencer 2018-19, Region H Healthcare Coalition, PEACE, Children/Youth Disaster: Pediatric Behavioral Health Work Group, MO Animal Control Association, Community Drug Council, NWMO Coalition for Roadway Safety, Opioid Task Force as well as others.